

Claims

1. A dome switch having a shape extending at least substantially along a length of an annular shaped path.
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2. A dome switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dome switch surrounds at least one other dome switch.
3. A dome switch as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said dome switch
10 comprises a partial annulus.
4. A dome switch as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said dome switch comprises a complete annulus.
- 15 5. A dome switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said annular path is circular in shape.
6. A dome switch as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said annular path has a polygonal shape.
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7. A dome switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the shape of the dome switch is defined by the shape of the dome sheet.
8. A dome switch as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a select
25 means is activated upon actuation of the dome switch.
9. A dome switch as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a rotator wheel is mounted on said dome switch.
- 30 10. A dome switch as claimed in claim 9, wherein the dome switch is actuated when a pressure is applied to an upper surface of the rotator wheel

in a direction substantially parallel to an axis perpendicular to the upper planar surface of the rotator wheel.

11. A dome switch as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the upper planar 5 surface of the rotator wheel is substantially annular in shape.

12. A dome switch as claimed in claim 9, 10 or 11, wherein the upper planar surface of the rotator wheel is exposed such that the upper planar surface may be accessed by a user.

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13. A dome switch as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the rotator wheel is connected to monitoring means for detecting rotational movement of the rotator wheel about an axis perpendicular to the upper planar surface of the rotator wheel

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14. An input apparatus comprising a dome switch as claimed in any preceding claim.

15. An input apparatus for a multimedia device, said input apparatus 20 comprising:

a rotator wheel having an upper planar surface that is substantially annular in shape and exposed in order that the upper planar surface may be accessed by a user of the multimedia device;

means for detecting rotational movement of the rotator wheel about an 25 axis perpendicular to the upper planar surface of the rotator wheel; and

select means activated when a pressure is applied to the upper surface of the rotator wheel in a direction substantially parallel to an axis perpendicular to the upper planar surface of the rotator wheel.

30 16. An input apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein a tactile response of the select means is substantially the same over all of the rotator wheel.

17. An input apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein activation of the dome switch comprises temporarily modifying the electrically conductive or electrically capacitive properties of an electronic element.